



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Rocky
Mountain
Region

740 Simms Street
Golden, CO 80401
Voice: 303-275-5350
TDD: 303-275-5367

File Code: 1570
WR 11-02-00-0053 (215)
Date: October 12, 2011

Dale Coombs
Chairman
Fryingpan Valley Caucus
P.O. Box 10
Meredith, CO 81642

Dear Mr. Coombs:

On June 20, 2011, we received your appeal of Forest Supervisor Scott Fitzwilliams' March 17, 2011 Record of Decision for the White River National Forest Travel Management Plan. The appeal was filed on behalf of the Fryingpan Valley Caucus. Your letter had been misplaced during our review of the appeals.

The legal notice initiating the appeal period for the decision was published in the Glenwood Springs Post Independent on May 4, 2011, and the appeal filing period closed on June 20, 2011. Your appeal was submitted in a timely fashion under the provisions of 36 CFR § 215.6. It has been processed under the provisions of 36 CFR § 215 and assigned control number 11-02-00-0053 (215).

Pursuant to 36 CFR § 215.18(b)(2), an appeal decision is not being issued. Forest Supervisor Fitzwilliams' decision constitutes the final agency action of the Department of Agriculture (36 CFR 215.15(e)(3)).

We appreciate your interest in this planning project and hope that you are able to resolve your concerns through further discussions with Forest Supervisor Fitzwilliams. I understand the Fryingpan Valley Caucus has been working with the White River National Forest this summer to come up with solutions to the issues that you raised concerning mixed use on the roads identified in your letter.

Any questions related to the Forest Service appeal process may be directed to Cindy Dean, Acting Regional Appeals Coordinator at 303-275-5470 or cdean@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

/s/ Glenn Casamassa

GLENN CASAMASSA
Appeal Deciding Officer
Acting Deputy Regional Forester, Resources

Enclosure



It's Cool to Be Safe

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June 14, 2011

Appeals Officer
U.S.D.A. Forest Service
Rocky Mt. Region
740 Simms
Golden, Colorado 80401

*Received
June 14, 2011*

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Upper Frying Pan Valley Caucus residents, we are filing an appeal to the White River National Forest Travel Management Plan concerning prohibited use of unlicensed motorized vehicles, such as ATVS, on certain designated Forest Service roads in the Upper Frying Pan River drainage. The roads of contention are the Eagle-Thomasville Road (U.S. Forest Service Road number 400); the Jakeman Creek road (number 512) the Twin Meadows Road (number 5041) and the Sellars Meadow Road (number 105).

Recreational use of public lands in this area has not only been a major activity for residents and nonresidents alike, it is also a major economic factor for this area. ATV use of the Forest Service Roads have historically been allowed and enjoyed by many. Eliminating the use of these roads would reduce the recreational activities of not only the local residents but by numerous tourists also.

Safety is always a major concern on any remote road. Due to the terrain and condition of these roads, higher speeds are not obtainable for any type of vehicle, therefore we believe that ATV's and other motorized vehicles would be compatible for use of the same roads at the same time. There has not been a recorded incident found on any of these roads that involved an accident between an ATV and a licensed motorized vehicle.

The U.S. Forest Service, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Search and Rescue and the local fire department have all used ATVS on these roads for their business or emergency calls. The local fire department has an ATV located at the fire station for use in any emergency. We should not limit these agencies or emergency

responders from using these designated roads to access these public areas with ATVs.

Weather conditions, time of year, or other conditions may be more suitable for ATV use on these roads than a full sized vehicle would be. Since the ATVs are smaller and more maneuverable, they would do a lot less damage to the road during adverse conditions.

Private Property is accessed off of three of these roads and the condition of the access roads to the private property dictate that ATVs should be used versus a full sized vehicle. It would make sense to allow the property owners to utilize their ATVs on the Forest Service Roads to access their private property.

If ATV users are restricted from accessing areas that they have in the past, more illegal trails and roads may be constructed for access. We feel that it would be better for the Forest Service to continue to allow ATV use on existing roads and concentrate their resources and manpower towards enforcing existing rules and regulations governing off road ATV use.

In conclusion, we ask that you continue to allow ATV use on the Forest Service roads in question so not only many outdoor enthusiasts may continue to enjoy the public lands in the same manner that they have done in the past, but also to allow the public entities to continue to do their jobs in a proficient and timely manner.

We look forward to your response and thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.



Dale Coombs
Chairman Frying Pan Valley Caucus
P.O. Box 10
Meredith, Colorado. 81642
(970) 927-2870